

Obedience and Sacrifice

"Dirty Words", Part 6 of 10
Pastor Frank De Luccio

I) THIS IS A TEST...

1. People test us to __ UNDERSTAND __ our knowledge and abilities.

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. (1 Kings 10:1, NIV)

2. God tests us to __ REVEAL TO US __ what is inside our hearts.

I also thought, "As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals." (Ecclesiastes 3:18, NIV)

**Sometimes God specifically tests us to reveal our levels of
__ OBEDIENCE AND SACRIFICE __.**

II) ENEMIES OF OBEDIENCE AND SACRIFICE

Left to our own devices, our hearts can easily become...

1. ...full of __ REBELLION __, rather than obedience.

We know we have rebelled and have denied the LORD. We have turned our backs on our God. (Isaiah 59:13a, NIV)

2. ...full of __ INDULGENCE __, rather than sacrifice.

It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor. Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. (Proverbs 25:27-28, NIV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23, NIV)

III) A HEART OF OBEDIENCE AND SACRIFICE

1. A heart willing to __ FOLLOW GOD, NO MATTER WHAT __.

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." (Genesis 22:1-2, NIV)

Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. (Genesis 22:3-4, NIV)

2. A heart willing to __ LET THINGS GO FOR GOD __.

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife... (Genesis 22:6, NIV)

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. (Genesis 22:7b-8, NIV)

IV) TAKE-AWAYS ON OBEDIENCE & SACRIFICE

1. Ask God to help you __ EXAMINE __ what is in your heart.
2. God's promises always __ TRUMP CIRCUMSTANCES __.
3. Obeying God does not always __ MAKE SENSE __.
4. Your sacrifices do not always __ EQUAL OBEDIENCE __.

Lakeshore Community Church

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